

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, **Rep Brad Miller (NC-13)** voted to significantly expand the federal government's ability to fund life-saving stem cell research, by voting for the DeGette-Castle Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 3).

The House passed this critical bill this afternoon by a strong bipartisan vote of 253 to 174.

"If the potential of stem cell research is realized, it could mean rescue or a cure for millions of Americans affected by debilitating or life-threatening disease," **Miller** said. "Almost every North Carolinian will benefit from this research or knows someone who will."

The DeGette-Castle bill would expand the federal funding of embryonic stem cell research by lifting the restrictions on the embryonic stem cell lines which can be used for federally-funded research - restrictions that were imposed by President Bush in 2001. Most of the stem cell lines authorized for federally-funded research under the President's policy are now no longer useful for research. However, the bill only authorizes federal research funds for stem cell lines generated from embryos that would otherwise be discarded by fertility clinics. The DeGette-Castle bill also creates an ethical framework that must be followed in conducting this research under the guidance of the National Institutes of Health.

This bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives in May of 2005 and the U.S. Senate in July 2006, but was vetoed by President Bush.

The bill now moves to the Senate where it is expected to pass. It is unclear if President Bush will again issue a veto on this bill.